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lem. The destruction of the unity so evoked was equally precipitate when the Czar, in response to the address of the first Duma, refused to consent to constitutional government by means of a responsible ministry. The several parties in the first and the second Duma and their subsequent policies are lucidly portrayed. The author takes a decidedly unfavorable view of the policies of the moderate constitutional democrats, headed by Milyoukov.

In the closing chapters the social aspirations of workingman and peasant are again brought into the foreground. The leaders of the Russian social movement are credited with a high order, if not a new order, of altruism. Literary men, Marxian socialists, priests like Father Petrov, and other intellectuals, work side by side for the Revolution.

In the opinion of the writer of this review the title selected by Mr. Walling for his book is not felicitous. There will be ample time to urge the import of Russian ideals upon the attention of the world after they have proven their efficacy for Russia. Meanwhile it remains doubtful whether Mr. Walling has given sufficient weight to the Malthusian doctrine of population and to the importance of private property in land as a motive for economic initiative in his consideration of Russia's elemental agrarian problem, to say nothing of his high aspirations for Russia's message.

As a first-hand study of Russia this book is admirable; the author's acquaintance with the leaders of Russian thought and action is evidently extensive; it is in no sense one-sided. The book deserves a wide circle of readers, both on account of the painstaking thoroughness with which the facts have been collected from first-hand sources and on account of its keen appreciation of Russian aspirations and ideals.

ISAAC A. LOOS

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Taine: historien et sociologue. By PAUL LACOMBE. Paris, 1909. Pp. 274.

This, the thirty-eighth volume of the *Bibliothèque Sociologique Internationale*, is in a sense a sequel to the author's study "*La psychologie des individus et des sociétés selon Taine, historien des littératures*," published in 1906. The later book is based upon an examination of Taine's twelve historical volumes which deal with mediaeval France, the Revolution, and nineteenth-century political

problems. Lacombe is a respectful but unsparing critic of his famous compatriot. Taine was, he insists, a sociologist in that he offered generalizations as to social life and institutions. Taine made much of the social environment, alluded to an age or nation as having a clearly defined spirit or character which was reflected in literature and in government. He was, therefore, consciously or unconsciously a social philosopher. But Lacombe accuses Taine of modifying or selecting his historical material to support his theses, of being misled by analogies and warped in judgment by his personal prejudices. Because of these things Taine is accused of idealizing the "Ancien Régime," of misrepresenting the Revolution in which he could see no redeeming element, and of failing to appreciate the republicanism of contemporary France. As an illustration of Taine's fondness for analogy Lacombe analyzes at some length the assertion that a form of government is like a house which a nation builds for its habitation. Thus, according to Taine, France was out of doors during the Revolution, its house being destroyed, but later the nation moved back into a somewhat tottering structure reared upon the foundations of the mediaeval period. This figure and Taine's conclusions drawn from it are mercilessly dissected. Taine's doubts about republicanism are attributed by Lacombe to the contrast in 1870-71 between the chaos in France and the solidity and order of English institutions. Taine became an admirer of the British parliamentary system and sought to impress its value upon his countrymen. In this attempt he lost sight of the underlying social factors and yielded to the temptation to distort history to fit his purposes. Lacombe writes in a judicial spirit and in excellent temper. His judgments of Taine are most of them convincing. The book as a whole affords an admirable example of the newer sociological spirit in the interpretation of history.

GEORGE E. VINCENT

Problems of City Government. By L. S. ROWE. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1908. Pp. 358.

Professor Rowe's method is historical and comparative, and he regards municipal government as a tool for furthering general welfare, not merely an interesting puzzle for persons fond of the game of party politics. The author, after a historical outline of cities, takes up the problems of urban life, municipal government,